

REMARKS

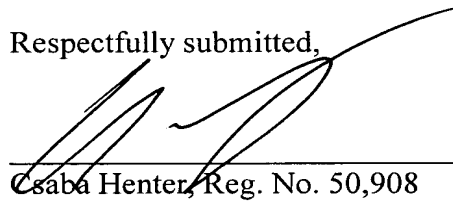
Applicants affirm the election and amended the claims to be directed to material identified by the Examiner as allowable.

Applicants additionally request that the product claims containing the allowable polymer be also allowed. These are allowable for at least the reason that they contain the allowable polymer.

Applicants also request the rejoinder of method claim 28, which is also dependent on the allowable claim 3.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



Csaba Henter, Reg. No. 50,908

Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969

Attorneys for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.

Arlington Courthouse Plaza I

2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400

Arlington, Virginia 22201

Direct Dial: 703-812-5331

Facsimile: 703-243-6410

Filed: August 14, 2006

K:\MERCK\2000 - 2999\2819\REPLY AUG 06.DOC